

AN IMPROVED LOCK FOR PAIRED INSTRUMENTS.

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IT has now been more than three years since I devised an improved lock for paired instruments which has proved so satisfactory that I have adopted it for scissors, artery forceps and sponge holders. The chief advantages of the lock are the facility afforded in the rapid adjustment and detachment of the blades of the instrument and the easy access to all of its parts in cleansing.

I first used the lock on the long delicate forceps employed in cleansing the abdominal drainage-tube. The accompanying



FIG. 1.

cut (Fig. 1) of this instrument is taken from the Johns Hopkins Hospital Reports, Gynæcological Fasciculus, No. 1, page 189.

From this cut it will be seen that the female portion of the lock is a simple slit running in an oblique direction to the long axis of the blade, while the male portion consists of a round, capped pin.

This lock, while satisfactory in the instrument for which it was devised, required some modification for other paired instruments.

As modified, the slit in the female blade is cut at right angles and the socket is rounded and larger.

The cap on the pin of the male blade is flattened on two sides in such a way that it can only be introduced into the

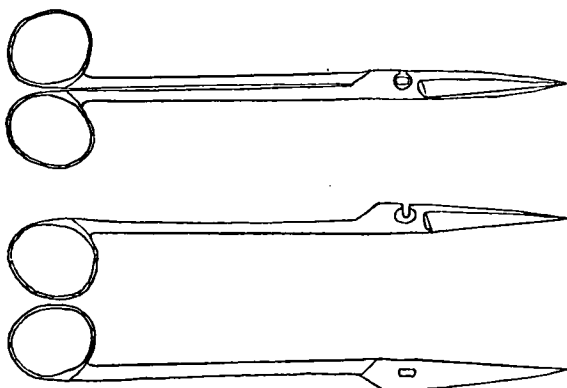


FIG. 2.

female blade by bringing the blades together at right angles. The adjustment of the blades at this angle prevents their detachment while in use.

Fig. 2 shows scissors fitted with the latest improved lock.